

the Wesleyan, and other societies, and each of at least twenty-five years' standing in China, have presented a memorial to the Royal Commission on Opium. They claim to be expressing the opinion of nearly every Protestant missionary in China, and of the whole native Christian community, numbering several tens of thousands, when they assert that opium is exerting a distinctly deteriorating effect upon the Chinese people; that the drug imported from India is neither required nor generally used for medicinal purposes, and that the conscience of the whole Chinese people is distinctly opposed to the opium habit.

—It is twenty-two years since the foundation of the East London Institute was laid. In all 1235 persons have been admitted, and of these 846 have been trained for work at home and abroad. Up to the close of the last session, 761 workers have left for various parts of the world. Of these 151 have gone to countries in Asia, 163 to different parts of Africa, 23 to Jamaica and Central America, 24 to South America, and 17 to Australia and New Zealand. Of the whole, some 87 have fallen asleep, 32 of them in Africa. Of 56 students during the last session, 11 are leaving at once for the Congo, and 19 for other parts of the mission field.

—Evidently the Church Missionary Society is blessed with friends who are possessed not only of wealth, but of warm hearts as well. For, concerning the support of its agents in the field, it is able to say: "The lists give 52 who draw no allowances, 17 who draw only a portion of what is usual, and 36 whose allowances, although drawn, are covered by special contributions; making no less than 105 (besides 12 wives) who do not come on the general funds of the society."

—Blessings attend Dr. Paton, who wrote just before the date: "I sail on August 10th for Australia and the islands, and have engaged 2 promising missionaries for the New Hebrides, as well as others to follow later. I have

received subscriptions enough to keep afloat our mission ship for some time to come. I have addressed three or four meetings every Sabbath and one or two almost every week day since I came home, and the money returns have been most encouraging. Mrs. Paton is off to consult with and help our son Fred, who is now a missionary on Maticula."

The Continent.—Church and State are still united in Italy, and the clergy are paid from the public treasury. The "Cultus Fund" of the Government during the last year had a capital of nearly 215,000,000 lire (\$43,000,000). Bishops, priests, and other ecclesiastics receive their salaries from this fund. The State still supports 23,256 monks and nuns at an annual expense of about 7,000,000 lire. Originally the number was 50,639. Since 1866 the State has given over to that purpose 226 cloisters and monasteries, the inmates of which have died, or these buildings have been sold. There are still 619 nun cloisters.

—Let us ponder once more these astonishing figures relating to the mission work of the Moravian Church. Its 400 missionaries occupy 150 centres. More than 30 went out last year. The church at home, with a membership of barely 30,000, and with limited resources, has one in every 60 of its members in the foreign field, and its converts number more than 8 times its own membership.

—Where so much must needs be said with severity against the settled religious policy of Russia, it is exceedingly pleasant for once to be able to employ words of commendation. It seems that the Czar is not afraid of the Bible in the vernacular, and a colporteur in Eastern Siberia has this to say: "I carried no letters of introduction with me, deeming the mission with which I was entrusted a sufficient passport, and so it proved to be! It was most pleasing to notice the kindness shown me by all with whom I came in contact, as soon as I made myself known to be an emissary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and much of the success